

Indiana Secretary of State

Memo

To: County Clerks, County Election Boards, Boards of Elections and Voter Registration
From: Todd Rokita, Indiana Secretary of State
Date: 5/1/2008
Pages: 1 total
Re: Election Readiness

Your dedication and hard work are greatly appreciated by the voters and taxpayers of Indiana. On behalf of them and myself, thank you for your leadership. By now you are in the thick of organizing your precinct kits, training poll workers and making last minute preparations for the election. A few reminders as you prepare:

Work with campaigns, candidates and media: You received a copy of a letter and information that I sent to each of the presidential, gubernatorial campaigns, political parties and the media last week. This documentation included information on Indiana's Primary Election basics, absentee ballots, photo ID, vote centers and the statewide voter file facts and figures. We will have many visitors both from out of state and international learning and reporting on our election process—please be patient with their questions, each state's election procedures can be very different.

Election Preparedness: I am confident that you have already experienced an increase in absentee voter turnout—this increased turnout will no doubt continue through Election Day at the polls. Make sure you are prepared for the anticipated increase by providing a surplus of ballots to each of your precincts. If a precinct does run out of ballots, dispatch more to that location—if there is nothing else available, direct the precinct election board to use provisional ballots, but to mark the security envelopes in some way to indicate that these were in fact "emergency" ballots used as the result of a shortage. For more information please review, IC 3-11-3-28, IC 3-11-13-17 and IC 3-11-14-19. Also, to avoid and alleviate potential lines at the polls, encourage those who are able to visit their polling place on off-peak hours.

Photo ID: The Supreme Court has ruled and upheld Indiana's Photo ID law. This ruling means that nothing has changed—we will administer this election as we have each election since the law's passage in 2005.

Party Challenges: Remember, because Indiana uses an open primary system on Primary Election Day voters are able to request the ballot of the party of their choice. Voters are not "registered" as either a Republican or Democrat. However, the type of ballot the voter requested in the Primary is public record. If a voter is challenged based on their party affiliation, and after completing the PRE-6 challenged voter's affidavit, the voter will be issued the regular ballot of that party.

Special Election Deputies: Again this election, I will be deputizing teams of poll watchers who will be making random visits throughout the state to verify and document compliance with Indiana election law. These poll watchers will carry "special deputy Secretary of State" credential with them, issued by my office, entitling them entrance to the polls. Please call Jerry Bonnet, 317-232-6534 with any questions.

Unless I hear otherwise, I assume that your efforts administering this election are running smoothly. Please contact me with any questions. The eyes on the nation are on us—let's show them a fair, accurate and equitable election!

Thank you,



Todd Rokita
Indiana Secretary of State